

REMARKS

In the Outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-20, 31-35, 56 and 57 were finally rejected.

Filed herewith is a *Request for Continued Examination*.

Claims 1-20, 31-35 and 56 and 57 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over the admitted prior art of Examples A and B insofar as the debonder compositions were concerned. Claims 1-10, 12-20, 31-35, 56 and 57 were rejected as obvious over *Osborn III* '699 with or without *Back et al.* '681.

Claims 11, 31-35 and 56 and 57 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over *Osborn III* '699 with or without *Back et al.* '681 in further view of United States Patent No. 5,730,839 to *Wendt et al.*

The evidence of synergy as set forth in Table 1 of the application was accorded no weight because it did not address the closest prior art, stated to be *Osborn III* '699.

As amended, this application is believed in condition for allowance. Support for the changes to Claims 1, 15, 18 and 31 is found on page 5, lines 25 and following, as well as on page 38 of the application as filed. Further support is found in original Claims 6, 11 and 18 as filed. The amendment to Claim 7 merely changes a dependency and the amendment to page 33 of the specification corrects grammar.

The thrust of the amendments is to more clearly differentiate the invention from the art of record, including the admitted prior art debonding compositions, Examples A and B.

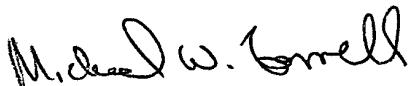
The known debonder used in Examples series A includes PEG-6-dioleate which is a nonionic surfactant with a fatty acid chain length of 18 and an HLB value of less than 10. (*Declaration of Bruce J. Kokko, ¶9*) The composition used in the process thus does not meet the HLB criteria of the amended independent claims. The debonder composition of Example series A contained only 10% nonionic surfactant, while the amended claims require 25

weight percent. As such, it is believed the claimed invention is most clearly differentiated from processes which use a debonder composition as was employed in Examples series A.

Example series B used a debonder composition which did not include an imidazolinium salt quaternary surfactant. Amended Claims 1, 15 and 18 do require an imidazolinium salt and are distinguished from processes employing the debonder composition of Example series B for this reason. Claims 1, 15 and 31 require 100% recycle fiber, whereas the debonder of Examples series B was marketed for "mixed and virgin" furnishes and is distinguishable on that basis. Claims 31 and new Claim 60 are further distinguished from processes employing the debonder of Example series B because these claims require HLB values for the nonionic surfactant of greater than 10. The debonder used in Examples series B included PEG-6-dilaurate which had an HLB value of less than 10. (*Declaration of Bruce J. Kokko, ¶5*) As amended, the claims are believed clearly patentable over the admitted prior art and the art of record.

For the above reasons, and for the reasons in the accompanying *Declaration of Bruce J. Kokko*, this application is believed in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner would like to discuss this case, the Examiner is invited to call at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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